

# GOVERNMENT PAYS FOR ORPHAN ASYLUM

## Warrant for \$2,750,000 Brings Title to Substitute for Polyclinic.

## TRANSFER VETERANS SOON

### Catholic Orphanage, Largest Build- ing in Bronx, Put in Officer's Charge Yesterday.

Title to the Roman Catholic Orphan Asylum at Kingsbridge Road and Sedgwick Avenue, the Bronx, passed to the United States Government yesterday. Possession of one of the largest buildings on the asylum property has already been taken by the Government and an officer installed.

Extensive alterations can be made to the various buildings. The Government is expected to abandon the Polyclinic Hospital in West Fiftieth Street, where it has been caring for disabled war veterans and transfer them to the Bronx about Jan. 1.

The Government paid \$2,750,000 for the property, the deal being completed at the office of former Supreme Court Justice Morgan J. O'Brien, acting for the asylum. Assistant United States Attorney John M. Ryan acted for the Government. When the papers were signed Mr. Ryan handed Judge O'Brien a Treasury warrant for the full amount.

The Government signed contracts to purchase the Asylum property at the height of a campaign waged by the trustees, medical staff, nurses and friends of Polyclinic Hospital to hasten its speedy return by the Government. The Trustees, through their spokesman, Dr. John A. Wyeth, founder of the hospital, complained that the hospital had been turned over to the Government in 1918, when there was a lack of hospital facilities for the treatment of soldiers, but said that the emergency had passed and that the Government in seeking to continue its control of the institution had transferred it from the War Department to the Public Health Service, under jurisdiction of the Treasury Department, and finally to the Veteran's Bureau. The business interests of the district, formerly provided with ambulance service by the hospital, joined the Trustees in their demand for its return.

A statement issued by the managers of the Orphan Asylum explained that they were led to consider the sale of the property because of the urgent need of the Government for hospital facilities in the Eastern District, which furnished one-tenth of the service men during the war. The statement continued:

"President Harding had given the matter of providing proper and adequate hospital facilities for service men his personal attention, insisting that all departments concerned speedily solve the problem. Moved by patriotism and a desire to co-operate with the Government in its efforts to provide a hospital for sick and disabled soldiers and sailors, the need for which is urgent, Archbishop Hayes, who was Chaplain General of the United States forces during the war, approved of the transfer.

"The Archbishop could and has made suitable provision for the immediate care of the children, whereas the Government probably could not provide buildings as suitable as those of the asylum for the care of the men for upward of two years, because the demand is daily growing more acute. A new asylum will be erected in the very near future."

At the Polyclinic Hospital it was stated yesterday that no date had been fixed for the removal of the patients, but that an officer and staff of assistants had already been installed in the boys' building of the asylum in the Bronx. It was also learned that the last of the children will be removed from the building this week.

The property purchased by the Government consists of about thirty-two acres of land, with several large buildings and outhouses.

The buildings are of fireproof construction and easily convertible for hospital use. It is the intention of the Government to make them into one of the finest hospitals in the United States. They will be equipped and operated in the most modern manner.

In point of capacity this hospital will be one of the largest east of the Mississippi River. The site selected is a very desirable one. The ground includes an elevation from which there is a commanding view of the city to the north and south and of the Palisades on the west.